General Assembly

Distr.: General
8 June 2006

Sixtieth session
Agenda item 122

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/60/609/Add.1)*]

60/254. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986, 54/236 of 23 December 1999 and 59/264 A, 59/272 and 59/275 of 23 December 2004,

Recalling also the importance of accountability and transparency to the Organization,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Measures to strengthen the accountability framework

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on measures to strengthen accountability at the United Nations;[3]

2. *Also takes note* of the additional elements that are intended to strengthen the accountability framework, which would seem to be somewhat fragmented;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to further strengthen the current framework by establishing and ensuring an effective system of accountability that clearly defines the lines of authority and responsibility, as well as the respective roles of the individual elements of the framework, and efforts aimed at improving coordination between them in order to avoid duplication;

Monitoring and evaluation/performance measures

4. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring that programme managers objectively evaluate programme performance and, in this context, that the Office of Internal Oversight Services should validate self-evaluation and reporting on programme performance by managers;

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[1] A/60/312 and A/60/342.

[2] A/60/418.

[3] A/60/312.

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that programme managers understand and respect the monitoring and evaluation functions performed by the oversight bodies;

6. *Notes* that the electronic performance appraisal system is the formal tool employed by the Secretariat in managing staff performance and that it represents an enhancement of the performance appraisal system;

7. *Decides* that staff performance assessment should be further enhanced in order to strengthen performance management to ensure the accountable implementation of legislative mandates, and in this regard calls upon the Secretary-General to improve performance management measures, including:

(*a*) A system that recognizes competence as an integral element of performance management and eventual career advancement;

(*b*) A comprehensive range of measures to address underperformance as well as incentives to encourage outstanding performance;

(*c*) Establishing direct links between performance and career advancement;

Governance review

8. *Recalls* its resolutions 57/278 A of 20 December 2002 and 59/264 A, and notes that there will be a separate report on the independent external evaluation of the auditing and oversight system of the United Nations, including the specialized agencies, as well as one on a comprehensive governance review;

9. *Notes* that the focus of the comprehensive governance review should be, inter alia, to clarify the roles and responsibilities of management with respect to supporting Member States, and emphasizes the intergovernmental nature of the Organization and its international character;

Oversight bodies

10. *Reaffirms* the importance of respecting the independent nature of the internal and external oversight structures of the United Nations, and recognizes that they are key governance partners;

11. *Recalls* its resolution 59/272 and, bearing in mind paragraph 4 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] decides to revert to the issue of the terms of reference and title of the high-level follow-up mechanism in the context of its consideration of the report on the independent external evaluation of the auditing and oversight system of the United Nations, including the specialized agencies;

12. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring the full implementation of the recommendations of the oversight bodies, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that managers are held accountable for the delay or non-implementation of oversight recommendations;

Fraud and corruption

13. *Recalls* its resolution 59/264 A and the recommendations of the Board of Auditors concerning fraud and corruption, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly on measures taken to implement the recommendations;

Procurement

14. *Also recalls* its resolutions 57/279 of 20 December 2002 and 59/288 of 13 April 2005, and requests the Secretary-General to continue efforts to make the procurement policies and practices of the United Nations system more transparent, efficient and effective;

Enhancing transparency

15. *Notes* the steps taken by the Secretary-General to institute greater transparency in the appointment of some senior-level positions, including through continued consideration of the applicants put forward by Member States at the request of the Secretary-General;

Ethics Office

16. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Ethics Office, and notes the Secretary-General's bulletin thereon,[4] and in this respect:

(*a*) Urges the Secretary-General to finalize a system-wide code of ethics for all United Nations personnel, including personnel of the funds and programmes, at an early date;

(*b*) Requests the Secretary-General to administer and monitor more extensive disclosure of financial and other interests by United Nations officials in accordance with the amended Staff Regulations[5] and to ensure enhanced protection for those who reveal wrongdoing within the Organization;

(*c*) Endorses the main responsibilities of the Ethics Office as outlined by the Secretary-General in his report[6] and as established by the Secretary-General's bulletin;[4]

(*d*) Emphasizes that the administration of policy by the Ethics Office for protection of staff against retaliation when reporting misconduct should be carried out in close cooperation with the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the Office of Human Resources Management;

(*e*) Also emphasizes that training programmes to cover the range of ethics issues should be designed by the Ethics Office in coordination with the Office of Human Resources Management;

(*f*) Recognizes the need for incrementally requiring all pertinent staff, in particular those in high-risk areas, to provide relevant financial disclosure, and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session in the context of his report on the activities of the Ethics Office;

(*g*) Requests the Secretary-General to present a comprehensive review to the General Assembly at the main part of its sixty-second session, as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its report,[7] which should include, inter alia, his views on the possible establishment of a group of internationally representative experts to provide periodic, independent assessments of the Ethics Office for the consideration of the Assembly;

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[4] ST/SGB/2005/22.

[5] See ST/SGB/2006/4.

[6] A/60/568 and Corr.1 and 2.

(*h*) Also requests the Secretary-General, in the context of the comprehensive review referred to above, to report on staff perception of the impact of the Ethics Office on improving ethics and integrity in the Organization;

(*i*) Further requests the Secretary-General to report on the activities of the Ethics Office and the implementation of ethics policies, in the context of his annual report, for the consideration and decision of the General Assembly, as appropriate, under the agenda item relating to human resources management;

Management practices

17. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the contribution made by the Department of Management to the improvement of management practices and the time-bound plan for the reduction of duplication, complexity and bureaucracy in the United Nations administrative processes and procedures;[1]

Reporting requirement

18. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions as contained in paragraph 12 of its report,[2] and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon to the General Assembly under the relevant agenda items, as well as on an overview of the status of implementation of the provisions of the present resolution, as appropriate.

79th plenary meeting
8 May 2006

[1] A/60/342.

General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 June 2006

Sixtieth session
Agenda item 124

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/60/608/Add.1)*]

60/255. Special subjects relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007

The General Assembly,

I

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council,[1] as well as the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Recalling its resolution 60/248 of 23 December 2005, by which it approved a charge of 100 million United States dollars for the twenty-six special political missions dealt with in the report of the Secretary-General[3] against the provision for special political missions in the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007,

Noting the importance of enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of political missions of the United Nations,

Recognizing the need to identify and achieve greater complementarities and synergies, where possible, among the various special political missions and good offices of United Nations entities,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

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[1] A/60/585 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2.

[2] A/60/7/Add.37. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 7A*.

[3] A/60/585 and Corr.1.

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to reflect the improvements proposed in paragraphs 11 and 12 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[2] in the presentation of the budgets for special political missions for 2007;

4. *Recalls* paragraph 7 of section VII of its resolution 59/276 of 23 December 2004, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that future budget proposals for special political missions are presented at an early date in order to facilitate proper consideration by the General Assembly;

5. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Secretary-General to utilize the existing expertise of staff within the United Nations system, including experts from regions where special political missions are located;

6. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to ensure the deployment of staff with relevant knowledge and experience to special political missions and good offices of the United Nations and to include information on progress made in future budget proposals;

7. *Notes with appreciation* efforts made to include information on actual and potential synergies and complementarities for each individual mission, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to develop and improve the presentation of information in this regard;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to identify means to achieve greater complementarities and synergies among the various special political missions and good offices of United Nations entities, including, where possible, through greater sharing of human resources and logistical arrangements, particularly where mandates are similar or interconnected, while being cognizant of their respective mandates;

9. *Recalls* that in paragraph 9 of its resolution 55/231 of 23 December 2000, it requested the Secretary-General to ensure that, in presenting the programme budget, expected accomplishments and, where possible, indicators of achievement are included to measure achievements in the implementation of the programmes of the Organization and not those of individual Member States;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit his future budget proposals in full compliance with its resolution 55/231;

11. *Notes* the lack of information analysing the growth and decrease in resources proposed as well as the variances between appropriations and expenditures in the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

12. *Also notes* the variance between the vacancy rates used in formulating budgets and the actual vacancy situation, in particular in medium-sized to large missions;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to formulate and present future budgets of special political missions on the basis of an analysis of actual expenditure patterns, including the latest vacancy situation and variances between appropriations and expenditures, for the purpose of achieving more realistic budgeting;

14. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to entrust to the Office of Internal Oversight Services a management review as outlined in paragraph 16 of the report of the Advisory Committee[2] and to submit it to the General Assembly at the main part of its sixty-first session;

15. *Reiterates* that experts and consultants for all special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives should be used in full compliance with the existing rules and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and in cases where the required expertise is not available within the United Nations system;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in this connection, to provide full justification in future budget submissions when requesting resources for experts and consultants;

17. *Notes* the observation of the Advisory Committee in paragraph 52 (*c*) of its report[2] regarding the two positions funded from general temporary assistance, and requests the Secretary-General to include specific information on their status in the budget submission for 2007;

18. *Takes note* of paragraph 29 of the report of the Advisory Committee,[2] and decides to establish a position for a Political Affairs Officer at the P-4 level within the Office of the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General for Lebanon;

19. *Approves* an additional charge of 202,469,500 dollars against the provision for special political missions already approved under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007;[4]

II

2005 World Summit Outcome: Peacebuilding Support Office; revised estimates to the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Support Office and the related revised estimates to the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007,[5] as well as the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[6]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[5]

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[6]

3. *Decides* to authorize the Secretary-General to utilize an amount of up to 1,571,300 dollars from the approved initial provision for special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007,[4] to operationalize a peacebuilding support office;

4. *Stresses* that the authorization from the provision for special political missions referred to in paragraph 3 above is a provisional and exceptional measure, decides that the Peacebuilding Support Office shall be financed from the programme budget, and requests the Secretary-General to include a provision for the Peacebuilding Support Office in the appropriate section of the programme budget, commencing with the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, to ensure sustainable and reliable long-term financing of the Office;

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[4] See A/60/6 (Sect. 3) and resolution 60/247 A.

[5] A/60/694.

[6] A/60/7/Add.36. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 7A*.

5. *Decides* to revert to the issues regarding level, staffing and functions of the Peacebuilding Support Office as contained in the report of the Secretary-General[5] in the context of its consideration of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 and in the light of decisions, if any, that may result from the consideration by the General Assembly of the report of the Secretary-General to be submitted in accordance with paragraph 25 of its resolution 60/180 of 20 December 2005;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the Peacebuilding Support Office has the necessary gender competence to support the Peacebuilding Commission in implementing its mandate to integrate a gender perspective into all of its work, taking into account, inter alia, Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 and drawing on the appropriate expertise in the United Nations system;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the efficient use of the resources approved in the provision for special political missions for the biennium 2006-2007, taking into account the provisions of paragraph 23 of its resolution 60/180;

III

Liabilities and proposed funding for after-service health insurance benefits

Recalling its resolution 58/249 A of 23 December 2003,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on liabilities and proposed funding for after-service health insurance benefits[7] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[8]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General[7] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[8]

2. *Also takes note* of the background information on the after-service health insurance programme provided in paragraphs 6 to 9 of the report of the Secretary-General,[7] and requests further explanation of the programme;

3. *Recognizes* the end-of-service accrued benefit liabilities reported by the Secretary-General in his report,[7] and requests the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to disclose those liabilities in the United Nations financial statements;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session a report that addresses the issues raised in paragraph 2 above, as well as the issues raised by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its report,[8] and that provides updated information on the status of liabilities, clarifications with regard to the assumptions used to determine liabilities and alternative strategies to fund the liabilities;

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[7] A/60/450 and Corr.1.

[8] A/60/7/Add.11. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 7A*.

IV

Harmonization of the conditions of travel

Noting with appreciation the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on harmonization of the conditions of travel throughout the United Nations system[9] and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon,[10]

1. *Decides* to revert to the consideration of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit,[9] the note by the Secretary-General[10] and any relevant contributions by the International Civil Service Commission at its sixty-first session, together with the question "Standards of accommodation for air travel";

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to initiate, within the framework of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, a review of the standards of travel and entitlements for staff members, members of organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations and organizations of the United Nations system, with a view to adopting a common policy at the United Nations system level;

3. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit the results of the review to the General Assembly at the first part of its resumed sixty-first session.

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[9] See A/60/78.
[10] A/60/78/Add.1.